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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 /037 W

R 162037Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4951

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 1963

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, SCUL, AR
SUBJECT: ALLEGED DETENTION OF SILOISTS IN RESISTENCIA

REF: STATE 064407

1. EMBASSY HAS FORMALLY REQUESTED OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE WORKING GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS INFORMATION REGARDING THE SITUATION OF SIX MEMBERS OF THE SILOISM INNER RELIGION ORGANIZATION REPORTEDLY ARRESTED AND DETAINED IN RESISTENCIA. AT PRESENT, WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THE CASE. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF WORSHIP RECOGNIZED THE NAME OF THE CULT AS A MINISCULE SECT LOCATED--HE THOUGHT--AROUND MENDOZA. HE SAID HE BELIEVED THE SECT CAME TO ARGENTINA FROM CHILE, BUT AS IT OPERATED IN THE INTERIOR AND HAD NEVER SOUGHT TO REGISTER OR MAKE CONTACT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, HE KNEW NOTHING OF THE GROUP'S MAKEUP OR ACTIVITIES. HE COULD NOT CONFIRM WHETHER OR WHY MEMBERS OF THE GROUP MIGHT HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND ADDED THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY GOVERNMENT DECREE OR DIRECTIVE REGARDING THE GROUP. (FYI: THE IMPLEMENTING DECREE FOR THE NEW NATIONAL RELIGIOUS REGISTRY HAS STILL NOT BEEN ISSUED AND WILL PROBABLY NOT BE UNTIL THE END OF APRIL, ACCORDING TO THE

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FOREIGN MINISTRY. THEREFORE, THE SILOISTS' ARREST CANNOT BE CONNECTED TO ITS FAILURE TO DATE TO REGISTER WITH THE OFFICE OF WORSHIP.)

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180854Z /11 ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

() Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part () In Full DECONTROL

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

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2. WE HAVE RECEIVED THREE COMMERCIAL CABLES FROM U.S. BRANCHES OF THE SECT AND ANOTHER COMMERCIAL CABLE FROM A BRANCH IN VENEZUELA REQUESTING OUR HELP ON BEHALF OF THE SIX PERSONS. THE NAMES OF THE SIX ARE NOT INCLUDED ON THE LIST OF DETAINEES BEING HELD IN RESISTENCIA PRISON UNDER P.E.N. WHICH WAS PUBLISHED HERE MARCH 11.

3. EMBASSY ATTEMPTING TO COMMUNICATE WITH MILITARY UNIT IN RESISTENCIA TO OBTAIN REPORT ON CASE. CASTRO

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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DECLASSIFIED